Today's News - Thursday, January 22, 2015

- Ferro delves into the demise of Architecture For Humanity: Where it "went wrong, and where volunteers hope to take it now" (a sad, but hopeful tale).
- A "scathing report lifts the lid on Australia's building energy performance sham."
- Wainwright wends his way through Beirut's "glitzy but strangely deserted" downtown (an architectural petting zoo if ever there was one), and delves deep "beneath the veneer of waterfront sparkle" to find it "might not all be quite what it seems" (a fabulous read!).
- Russell on Nouvel vs. Philharmonie de Paris: "However petulant it sounded, his outburst matters - pushing back against the ingrained assumption that cost overruns are always the fault of the architect. The hopefully delicious irony in this turn of events is that us media types are forced to halt our usual rush to judgment."
- Speaking of critics vs. critics vs. architects: Johnson, Brownell, Brussat, and Altabe each offer thoughtful takes on the Betsky/Bingler/Pedersen/Shubow/Hosey debate (all well worth reading!).
- King calls out six examples of "standout architecture: the fabulous and the flops" in San Francisco.
- Anderton's Q&A with Mayne and Alison-Mayne re: their plans for the Ray Bradbury home site "that might have piqued the late futurist's interest," and "their response to the furor" over its demolition.
- Mallonee looks at what's being lost in Holf's plan for the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston expansion.
- An in-depth (and fascinating) look at the Cooper Hewitt Labs, "A Thing That Puts Things on the Internet" that is "an investment in a particular idea of cultural democracy" (fear not - the museum "will forever be committed to its stuff!).
- Bernstein takes a look at how some major museums are dealing with their "entrance problems."
- Mystic Seaport in Connecticut is getting a new museum that is a modern design by Centerbrook Architects that "will blend seamlessly with the 19th-century flavor."
- Hopes are high that the Stockholm Public Library's second try to modernize will go better than the first by tapping Caruso St John to renovate Asplund's landmark.
- Bullivant cheers SelgasCano's Second Home in London, a "gloriously porous cultural hub" (it bodes well for this year's Serpentine Pavilion).
- An impressive list of finalists in AJ's 2015 Women in Architecture Awards and Emerging Woman Architect of the Year awards (great presentation, too).
- Five impressive design teams shortlisted in Toronto's Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Harbour Square Park Design Competition.
- Call for entries: 1st Annual Dencity Competition for new ideas on how to better handle the growing density of unplanned cities.
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The Museum of the Future Is Here: Some things belong in a museum. But at the Smithsonian’s recently reopened museum of design, a team has been rethinking what a thing is in the first place.

Cooper Hewitt Labs... Somewhere between a media and a tech firm... A Thing That Puts Things on the Internet... The museum will forever be committed to its stuff... The Labs’s work... is an investment in a particular idea of cultural democracy. By Robinson Meyer [images, links] - The Atlantic

Major Museums Making Grand Entrances: The Metropolitan Museum of Art has an entrance problem... The Louvre... also has an entrance problem. By Fred A. Bernstein – Kevin Roche John Dinkeloo and Associates (1980s); I.M. Pei (1989); Agence Search; Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Studio Gang Architects - Architectural Record

Mystic Seaport Breaks Ground on New Exhibit Building: Modern architecture and design will blend seamlessly with the 19th-century flavor... will evoke the spirit of ship building and the sea. -- Centerbrook Architects and Planners; Kent + Frost Landscape Architecture [images] - WNPR News (Connecticut)

Caruso St John Appointed to Renovate Gunnar Asplund’s Stockholm Public Library: ... there will be no alterations to the external appearance of the building... the second attempt to modernize the library in a decade... In 2007... Heike Hanada was selected for a more dramatic extension... met heavy criticism... ArchDaily

Second Home: ... a new type of workspace-cum-club for digital age entrepreneurs... a gloriously porous cultural hub... Everything is geared towards a more experiential, yet rational resolution... There is also a strong artisanal thread running through the building... By Lucy Bullivant — SelgasCano [images] - The Plan Magazine (Italy)

Revealed: finalists in 2015 Women in Architecture Awards and the Emerging Woman Architect of the Year awards. - Joanna Bacon/Allies and Morrison; Teresa Borsuk/Pollard Thomas Edwards; Rachel Haugh/Simpson Haugh and Partners; Gonca Pasaliar/Emre Arolat Architects; Carme Pinos/Estudio Carme Pinos; Cristina Segni/Foster + Partners; Clare Wright/Wright & Wright; etc. [images] - The Architects’ Journal (UK)

Five design teams shortlisted for Jack Layton Ferry Terminal and Harbour Square Park Design Competition: ... occupies prime waterfront space at the end of two of Toronto’s most important streets... -- Clement Blanchet Architecture/Battle i Roig/RVTR; Diller Scofidio + Renfro/architectsAlliance; KPMB Architects/West 8/Greenberg Consultants; Quadrangle Architects/aLLDesign/Janet Rosenberg & Studio; Stoss Landscape Urbanism/inARCHITECTS/ZAS Architects - Canadian Architect

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